

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application as amended. Claims 2, 5-12, 14, 17-24, 40-48, 51-59 are pending. Claims 2, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 14, 17-19, 21-22, 24, 40-43, 45-46, 48, 51-54, 56-57 and 59 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-4, 13, 15-16, 28, 30-33, 36-39, 49 and 50 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-4, 13, 15-16, 28, 30-33, 36-39, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being patentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,134 of Niikawa.

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 5-11, 14, 17-24, 40-48 and 51-59 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but stated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten the objected claims 2, 5-11, 14, 17-24, 40-48 and 51-59 in independent form including all of the limitations of the previous base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have also rewritten claim 12 in independent form including all of the limitations of the previous base claim and any intervening claims because, although not mentioned by the Examiner, claim 12 looked closely associated with claimed subject matter of claim 24.

Also, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims 1, 3-4, 13, 15-16, 28, 30-33, 36-39, 49 and 50 without prejudice. Claim 68 has been also canceled without prejudice because, although not identified by the Examiner, claim 68 looked closely associated with claimed subject matter of claim 38.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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